

## JOSEPH M. THOMAS

### Business Address:

Office of Academic Affairs, Albright College  
P.O. Box 15234  
Reading, PA 19612-5234  
E-mail <jthomas@albright.edu>  
Phone (610) 921-7643, fax -7554

### Education:

Ph.D., English, Rutgers University (New Brunswick), 1993  
M.A., English, University of Texas (Austin), 1984  
B.A., Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, University of Texas (Austin), 1977

### Academic Positions:

Albright College, Reading, PA 2007-

Associate Provost and Dean for Academic Affairs; prior, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Acting Provost and VPAA, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Caldwell College, Caldwell, NJ, 2003 – 2007

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (prior, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies)

Pace University, New York, NY, 2000-2003

Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Programs; Adjunct Associate Professor of English

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, 1996-2000

Director, Graduate Program in English; Assistant Professor of English (tenured)

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 1993-1996

Director, Technical Writing Program; Visiting Assistant Professor of English

### Selected College Service:

#### Albright College

Co-Chair, Middle States Decennial Reaccreditation	Strategic Planning Council
Educational Policy Council	Campus Life Council
Curriculum Committee	Assessment Committee
General Education Committee	Enrollment Development Committee
Retention Task Force and Policy Group	Globalization Steering Committee
Search chair: Writing Program Director; Asst. Dean of Academic Affairs; Writing Center Coordinator; Asst. Director, Academic Learning Center; Director, Disability Services	

#### Caldwell College

President's Planning Council	Curriculum Committee
Chair, Undergraduate Academic Committee	Chairs' Committee
Chair, Graduate Academic Committee	Adult Education Task Force
Enrollment Management Task Force	Student Services Task Force
Search chair: Assoc. Dean of Education	General Education Assessment Committee
Program advisory boards: Business, Writing across the Curriculum, Business, Educational Administration, Pastoral Ministry	

### **Pace University**

Sponsored Research Advisory Council  
International Task Force  
Teacher Education Council  
Fulbright representative  
Advisory Board, Pace Institute for Environmental and Regional Studies

Model United Nations/Pi Gamma Mu  
Dean's Advisory Committee  
Core Curriculum Committee  
Chair, Graduate Committee

### **Sam Houston State University**

University Graduate Committee  
Arts & Sciences Graduate Committee  
English Department Program Committee

### **Professional Service:**

General Studies Advisory Board, Northampton Community College, 2015-  
Evaluator, General Studies program, Northampton Community College, 2013  
Publisher's ms. reader for Fordham U. Press, 2011  
Advisory Board and Review Editor, *ESQ: Journal of the American Renaissance*, 1997-2007  
Board member and Program Chair, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, 2001-2007  
Site evaluator, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 2006  
Inspector, Committee on Scholarly Editions of the Modern Language Association, 2000-2001  
Area Coordinator, National Association of African-American Studies, 1998-2001

### **Professional Associations:**

American Conference of Academic Deans • Association for General and Liberal Studies • Association on Higher Education and Disability • American Literature Association • Association for Documentary Editing • Modern Language Association • Emerson Society

### **Faculty Work:**

#### **Awards, Fellowships, Grants,**

Wye Dean's Seminar participant, 2014  
Senior Leadership Academy participant, co-sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges and American Academic Leadership Institute, 2010-2011  
Co-author of funded grants from NEH, Ford Foundation, NHPRC (National Archives), the Delmas Foundation, and Pace University for The Harriet Jacobs Papers Project (P.I. and General Editor, Jean Fagan Yellin), 2001-2003  
Faculty Research Council grants, Sam Houston State University, 1997, 1998, 1999  
Kahrl Fellowship in Houghton Library Manuscripts, Harvard University, 1996  
David L. Kalstone Memorial Award, 1994 (distinguished Rutgers dissertation)  
Runnerup, Richard Beale Davis Prize, 1993 (best essay published in *Early American Literature*)  
Fellow, Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, Rutgers University, 1988-89  
Pre-Doctoral Excellence Fellow, Rutgers University, 1985-1989  
Teaching Excellence Nominee, University of Texas, 1982

### **Publications**

"Frost and Emerson," co-authored with Mark Richardson, in *Robert Frost in Context*, ed. Mark Richardson (NY: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

- Executive Editor, *The Harriet Jacobs Papers*, ed. Jean Fagan Yellin, 2 vols. (Chapel Hill: U. North Carolina Press, 2008).
- “Poverty and Power: Revisiting Emerson’s Poetics,” *Emerson Bicentennial Essays*, ed. Conrad Wright and Joel Myerson (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia / Massachusetts Historical Society, 2006), 213-246.
- “Emerson’s ‘The Poet,’” *American History Through Literature, 1820-1870*, ed. Janet Gabler-Hover and Robert D. Sattelmeyer (Detroit: Scribners, 2006), 891-898.
- “Ralph Waldo Emerson,” *The Literary Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert Clark (<<http://www.literaryencyclopedia.com>>, 2002).
- “The Library of America,” *The Literary Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert Clark (<<http://www.literaryencyclopedia.com>>, 2002). Translated in *Ecdotica* [U. of Bologna] 2 (2005), 106-109.
- “Ralph Waldo Emerson,” *The Encyclopedia of American Studies*, ed. George T. Kurian (NY: The American Studies Association / Grolier Press, 2001), 82-84.
- “The Post-Abolitionist’s Narrative: William Greenleaf Eliot’s *The Story of Archer Alexander*,” *New England Quarterly* 73:3 (September 2000), 463-481.
- “Late Emerson: Selected Poems and the ‘Emerson Factory,’” *ELH* 65:4 (1998), 971-994.
- “‘The Property of My Own Book’: Emerson and the Literary Marketplace,” *New England Quarterly*, 69:3 (1996), 406-425.
- “*Roughing It* In Style: The 1993 Iowa-California Twain Edition,” *Review*, vol. 17, ed. James O. Hogue (Charlottesville: U. Press of Virginia, 1995), 253-265.
- “Figures of Habit in William James,” *New England Quarterly*, 66:1 (1993), 3-26.
- “‘Peculiar Soil’: Mining the Early American Imagination,” *Early American Literature*, 27:3 (1992), 151-169.

### **Other Scholarship**

- “*The Works of George Santayana*, volume 5 (MIT Press),” report commissioned by the Committee on Scholarly Editions of the Modern Language Association, 2001.
- “The Library of America: A Documentary Chronology of Its Background and Inception,” unpublished study commissioned by The Library of America, 1996.

### **Selected Presentations**

- “Closing the Loop on Standards 7 and 14” (co-presenter), Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Philadelphia, 2010.
- “Binding Proteus: Publishing Emerson’s Poetry,” Association for Documentary Editing annual panel at Modern Language Association, Chicago, 2007.
- “Edward Waldo Emerson and the Familial Canon of Emerson’s Poetry,” American Literature Association, Boston, 2007.
- “Harriet Jacobs: Activist, Author, American Slave,” Lifelong Learning Institute, Caldwell NJ, 2007.
- Conference co-chair and panel moderator, “The Legacies of Slavery and Sisterhood: The Life and Work of Harriet Jacobs,” New York, 2006.
- “Institutionalizing Harriet Jacobs,” American Literature Association, Cambridge, MA 2003.
- “Emerson, Pragmatism, and the Making of Poetry,” Emerson Bicentennial Conference, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, 2003.
- “Mixed Messages: The Slave Narrative as Eclectic Performance,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 2000.
- “Emerson’s Pragmatist Poetics,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, 1999.

- “The Post-Abolitionist’s Narrative,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, 1999.
- “Emerson, Jose Marti, and the Legacy of Reform,” Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, MA, 1999.
- “Reassessing Emerson and Jose Martí,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 1999.
- “Editing History: The WPA’s Federal Writers Project and Texas Slave Narratives,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, 1998.
- “The Library of America as Fruit of the MLA,” South Central MLA, Dallas, 1997.
- “The ‘Emerson Factory’ and Emerson’s Poetry,” American Literature Association, Baltimore, 1997; abstracted in *Emerson Society Papers* 8:2 (Fall 1997), 3-4.
- “A Brahmin Slave Narrative: William Greenleaf Eliot’s *The Story of Archer Alexander*,” National Association of African-American Studies, Houston, TX, 1997.
- “William James and the Physiology of Modernism,” 20th-Century Literature and Science Conference, University of Louisville, 1988.

### **Courses Taught**

#### Graduate

American Literature, 1800-1860

American Literature, 1860-1900

Methods in Research and Bibliography

Graduate Thesis

#### Undergraduate

American Literature 1820-1860

American Literature Survey to 1865

American Literature, 1865 to Present

American Poetry and Poetics

American Novel

English Romantics

Harlem Renaissance

Literature of American Slavery

Honors Readings in American Literature

Independent studies on slave narratives, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, “Beat” writers

Perspectives on the Environment

Literary Masterpieces

Literature of the Western World

Poems, Plays, and Fictions

Short Story

Composition

Technical Writing

“Discovery” program

“Equal Opportunity Fund” program

### **Research Interests**

American Literature and American Studies, primarily of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

Emerson, Transcendentalism, and American literary pragmatism

African American literature and the slave narrative

Textual and editorial theory and practice; book history